



STAMFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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A regular meeting of the Stamford Police Commission was held on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 5:00pm at First County Bank, 3001 Summer Street.

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Abbazia, Figueroa, Palmer, Thomas and Lyons. Assistant Chiefs Matheny and Wuennemann, Sgts. Devanney and Pinto.

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Thomas at 5:05pm because Commissioner Abbazia was a few minutes late.

Review of Minutes

Commissioner Palmer made a MOTION to accept the minutes from February's meeting and seconded by Commissioner Figueroa.

Good Conduct by Officers:

A/C Wuennemann commended officers on Sgt. Broems letter about a robbery where the victim ended up with two small puncture wounds on his back. Sgt. Broems from the Detective Bureau commended Officer Jen Lynch from Youth Bureau, Officer Kitselman from NOC, and uniform Officers O'Meara and Gale for their response. By the time the Detective Bureau arrived officers had the suspects all lined up, photo lineups, everything. They were all juveniles but were arrested for Robbery 1st and Assault 1st.

A/C Matheny state that at the last meeting he nominated one of the NOC Squads but due to the fact they are involved in two long term cases, they will not be available until next month and hopefully we can get them in for their awards. They have all received a letter of commendation.

Comments from the Public

Nothing

Administration and Operating

Assistant Chief Wuennemann stated that February was a slow month and we are slightly down. Are numbers were slightly down but the quality of work was there. We had about 6100 calls for service which is down 1300 from the month before. Remember it is cold as well as a few days short in the month.

Traffic Enforcement Unit worked 19 days in the month. They had 81 speeding violations, 51 traffic control signal violations, 49 misc violations (improper passing, restricted turns, etc.), 52

Handheld Electronic Device, 6 unregistered motor vehicles, 11 operating without license, 9 vehicles towed and 6 graduated driver's license seizures (cell phone/texting) driving out after hours.

MV vs 2 pedestrians at High Ridge Road operator received summons. TEU responded to assist at Stamford High School Bomb Threat, Sgt. Gallagher working with State's Attorney's Office on two upcoming fatal crash trials.

Now have certified DRONE operators.

SRT Team has been quiet on their own but has assisted NOC a lot.

Assistant Chief Matheny stated 8 suicides in 2016, 5 in the month of February. 16yo and 39yo military man. There is no connectivity between any of the suicides. We have been averaging about 1 a week. Clinicians are asking about what they can do, but we have no connectivity. The Bureau has a routine month, stabbings, robberies, etc. One arrest that stands out is a homicide from 1989, a suspect named Christopher Williams, was given bond in 1989 and then he bailed. The Bureau and US Marshalls found him in Philadelphia and made an arrest. So we have closed out a homicide from 1989.

NOC has been involved with some long term cases but made 42 arrests, executed a couple search warrants, seized about \$50,000 worth of drugs and that is frankly working part time because of their long term cases. Three NOC Officers were injured, Connelly, Robinson and Alvarez with various types of injuries. Connelly had to undergo some major neck surgery but came back to work in two weeks.

SVU had 41 new cases; they had one missing and endangered person that they found.

Youth Bureau has 13 sexual with juvenile cases in February in addition to 15 outstanding sexual assault investigations where victims were kids. They made their last arrest with the stabbing at SHS. 5 juveniles were arrested and charged.

Commissioner Lyons stated that she had received a lot of calls regarding drugs in Stamford and wanted to know if there are more problems in Stamford than there has been. A/C Matheny informed the Commission that we have a huge spike in Heroin use. It has hit New England really hard. It has hit us a little less than other cities in Connecticut who has OD's every day. We are a little more aggressive in keeping it out of Stamford we are not seeing as many overdoses but seeing a significant number of heroin overdoses and more involving emotionally disturbed. Commissioner Lyon asked if it was more prevalent and A/C Matheny stated heroin is. What once started as medication prescription abuses it is now cheaper to use heroin because it is pure, cheap and readily available. A/C Matheny states that Darien, New Cannon and Wilton it is being used by students.

Commissioner Figueroa asked where we are with bomb threats in schools? A/C Matheny stated in terms of the investigation what they found in the first couple of days may be all we get. It came from a VIOP out of Toronto, Canada. It is almost impossible to find out who did it. That particular group sent out threats all over the country. No one has been able to crack it. Commissioner Thomas stated that the lawmakers are trying to get in place stricter laws for these kinds of threats at schools.

Personnel Issues

Commissioner Figueroa heard that the Park Police Officers will now be falling under the Police Department and wanted to know if that was true. A/C Wuennemann informed the Commission that yes the Park Police Officers will fall under the Police Department as far as reporting and scheduling goes. They will be financially under Operations. They are under our supervision regarding report writing, scheduling if they are working, etc. The Parks Commission wants complete control but they cannot have their own police department. We have three Park Police Officers.

Old/New Business:

Commissioner Palmer asked about any new updates on the new police building. A/C Matheny stated it is moving along at a good pace. March they will be tearing down plot on the corner and clear it. As soon as the ground thaws they will start excavating the new site for Hoyt Barnum. July into August they will tear down garage and move all the units out and into some other city sites that we have. Mayor has approved all the plans so the architect can now begin drawings.

Commissioner Figueroa mentioned the Police Commissioner Association of CT's Award will be given to Officer Steve Orgera as he is one of the high honor graduates. There will be a dinner for him and he will receive a plaque and engraved handgun.

Commissioner Abbazia asked about the testing for Captain's position and Lieutenant's test. No we have not received a test from HR yet. A/C Wuennemann stated that we had 5 openings in the April Academy which we let go by because the Mayor never approved the 5 hires. We are requesting again for July – not sure if we will get 5 spots but we are going to try. We are budgeted for 283 officers and as of now we have 274.

Commissioner Thomas asked about the BearCat said he thought it was embarrassing to see it in the paper and us asking for donations. A/C Wuennemann stated that it is a piece of equipment that we really need in the Police Department. SRT is trained and excellent in what they do and they really need this equipment. Commissioner Palmer stated that the Police Foundation was approached and asked to help finance this vehicle. The good efforts of the Foundation got out in front of the marketing needed to help the public understand what the vehicle is, why it is needed and they set up a GoFundMe page.

Commissioner Figueroa made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 5:45pm seconded by Commissioner Thomas.

Submitted,

Timothy Abbazia

Timothy Abbazia
Chairman